Confidential Collection No. 64 of 40

year 1940-41

Subject:- Correspondence with
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Madras, regarding nomination
of defeated candidates in
District Board Elections.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Collection No. 64/1940

Year 1940—1941.

General and Revenue
Secretariat.

Confidential Branch.

~~HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT .... Correspondence with ~~wit~~ Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Madras, regarding nomination of defeated candidates in District Board elections.

PREVIOUS REFERENCES.	LATER REFERENCES.

2/3/1943

WD 05354—GPB—300—6-5-40

wicked stories and malicious reports of suspicions about the late Jawaharlal's death, did not my blood boil with anger? Why did it, because my feelings towards you as of a good friend could not be ~~obliterated~~ suppressed even by your indifference to them. I said to myself, let me be true to my own nature, and I write this. What a long introduction but Bernard Shaw's prefaces give me a precedent!

Don't think I give a high percentage acceptance of the statements in the enclosed cutting. 40% of it may be false. But why should you do some of these things, which ruin the prospects of your constitutional reforms? Please throw this into the waste paper basket and do not reply. It is enough I have spoken. If you think there is nothing wrong in it all, let it end there. Yours sincerely, C. Rajagopalachari

48, BAZLULLAH ROAD
TYAGARAJANAGAR
MADRAS

4. 6. 40

My dear Sir Mirza

I had made a resolve not to press on you my feelings and opinions as I felt that recently you had made up your mind not to listen to my advice, and indeed had quietly concluded that I was a fool and a bore to whom you have to be polite.

But I felt again the urge of a friendship which I had not the heart to suppress. And I said to myself what if he rejects it with a contemptuous smile? It does not hurt me, but it may help him. When I heard those

Serial No.

Submitted to Second Member.

I send herewith for favour of perusal a copy of letter dated the 7th June 1940 received by the Dewan from Sri Rajagopalachari of Madras. The Dewan desires that a comprehensive note may kindly be prepared and brought with you so as to facilitate a reply being sent to Mr. C. Rajagopalachari's letter as also a reply to an adjournment motion in the Assembly in regard to the nominations to the District Boards of defeated candidates, which motion has been allowed for discussion on the 14th instant.

11.6.40 Chief Sec?

w.d. in C Bon 2/6

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

48 Bazlullah Road,
Thyagarayananagar,
M a d r a s.
7th June 1940.

Personal.

My dear Sir Mirza,

Thank you for your letter which you wrote in spite of the hurry you were in. The letter is fairly long, though unconvincing ! If you believe in democracy, at least for the limited sphere of the election of good and worthy men to the Local Bodies, you cannot undermine the seriousness of such elections by outflanking them with nominations. I consider it a matter of first principle. You may even appoint a Ramaswami Mudaliar to some other job than that to which he stood for in an election. But you cannot use your power to nominate him to the very place which the people denied him when you asked them to decide the question. The "next best man" argument of yours is very clever, but when two persons opposing one another and standing for contrary policies have gone through the battle, and the public have decided in favour of the one or the other, how can the choice of the other man in the teeth of the election result be the choice of the "next best man". It is the choice of the opposite man and the opposite policy.

These are my present views. I shall certainly await the note which you propose to send.

While I have wholly differed from your observations in regard to your own affairs I am in entire agreement with you in your observations on the present international situation.

I hope you have had a good time with Sir Maurice Gawyer. He is a very able and charming man. I have had very pleasant talks with him. He does not disagree with me so much as you do.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) C. Rajagopalachari.

Copy
M Wasim Jaffrey
11/6/40 Chief Sec

BANGALORE, June 2.

Mr K T Bashyam, President, Mysore Congress in the course of a statement says:

"The Government of Mysore have acted in a most unwise and regrettable manner in nominating several defeated candidates to the District Boards.

Nominations even of popular non-officials is alien to the spirit of Local Self-Government. The practice has been abolished in Madras since more than ten years ago. It is an anachronism in these days. While such is the case, the nomination of defeated candidates, whose unpopularity has been established beyond doubt, is not merely objectionable but fraught with danger.

"It is an open insult to the intelligence of the voters and a premium placed on popular disfavour. It will demoralise the elections into a game where the official henchman can snap his fingers at the voters and say "Heads I win, Tails you losse." It will demoralise the public into supporting the official candidate to avoid the humiliation of being insulted by such nomination It tampers with public weights and measures and robs the elections of their value and freedom.

"It confers no grace on the candidates themselves who having been routed at the front door sneak in by official favour through the backdoor. It shows an anxiety on their part to grab a seat in some manner or other rather than a desire to represent the people; and to that extent it lowers them further in the estimation of the people.

"And what interests do these gentlemen represent which are not already represented or could not be represented by nomination of others? Are they the indispensable brains of the country? Was there none else who could do as well in the place without the stigma of a public defeat at a popular election? Is the Congress to be told that it cannot keep them out of the District Boards, for the might of the Government is stronger than the vote of the people?

"Altogether it is regrettable performance, on the part of the Government to have nominated defeated candidates to the District Boards."

Confidential Branch.

Submd. for orders, if any reply is to be sent to Mr. C. Rajagopalachari.

EO 21/6.

The Dewan said that no reply was called for.

NM 21/6

recent nominations Boards in the

stituted with trict Board has he same date.

strict Boards Act, District Board trength including

inated to the

	Total strength	Elected	Ex-officio	Nominated: Women	Adikarnatakas	Mahomedans	Othercommunities.	Total	Defeated candidates nominated
Bangalore	37	25	5	1	1	2	3	7	nil
Mysore	31	21	5	1	1	1	2	5	1
Mandya	24	16	4	-	1	1	2	4	1
Kolar	34	23	4	1	1	3	2	7	2
Hassan	27	18	4	-	1	1	3	5	nil
Tumkur	31	21	4	1	1	2	2	6	nil
Chitaldrug	28	19	4	1	-	2	2	5	1
Kadur	22	15	3	1	1	2	-	4	nil
Shimoga	25	17	4	1	-	1	2	4	nil
TOTAL.	259	175	37	7	7	15	18	47	5

It will be seen from the above figures that the number of nominated members is 47 out of the total strength of 259 for all the nine District Boards, i.e., a little more than 18%. Out of 47 nominations only 5 are of defeated candidates.

The

The nominations have been made on the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioners of Districts concerned and in making them, the principles enunciated in G.O.No.L.2900-7/Ml.181-32-1 dated 21st October 1932 have been generally kept in view. Though it has been laid down therein that the defeated candidates should not ordinarily be nominated, a few of such defeated candidates have been nominated in the marginally noted four districts as it was recommended by the Deputy Commissioners concerned that their presence on the Boards would be useful with their previous experience. Their number is only 5.

Chitaldrug:-	Mr.Mahomed Imam	)
Kolar:-	Mr.Venkatasami Chetty	)
	Mr.S.Ramappa	)
Mandya:-	Mr.M.C.Linge Gowda	)
Mysore:-	B. Channappa	)

The Boards have to carry out the duties prescribed in the provisions of the District Boards Act. There is no question of conflicting policies in the case of these elections. It cannot be said that the candidates stand for different or conflicting policies as in the case of general elections to the Legislature. The policy of the Government has been laid down in the Government Order of 1932 and the present nominations are not in any way a departure from the same.

Mysore Govt. has not accepted the principle of a defeated candidate. Since the nominations such a rule if acted upon might regard to the particular person who has failed in an election of the main board, the conditions in our Country being entirely different from those in the British Countries where there are well defined political parties cutting in the interests of the country etc. of members.

The number of persons who stood for Election but who were nominated on special grounds is five out of a total number of 47 nominated members. They are as follows:-

Mr. J. Mahomed Imam	Chitaldrug	District.
" V. Venkataswamy-Chetty.	Kolar	"
" S. Ramappa	"	"
" M.C.Linge Gowda	Mandya	"
" B. Channappa	Mysore	"

Regarding the nomination of Mr. Mahomed Imam it must be stated that no Muhammadans were returned in the Elections from any of the Taluks in that District. Therefore two persons had to be nominated to this District Board. While doing so, it was considered desirable to nominate Mr. J.Mahomed Imam as he had worked in the District Board for a number of years and was closely associated with the 5 years programme of construction of Roads and Briuges in that District and as his presence in the District Board was considered to be very useful with his previous experience, on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner.

Persons that had applied for nomination in that District.

1) Syed Abdul Wahab; Vice President, Hiriyur.
2) Mahommed Hayath, Molakalmuru.

Out of these 2, Mr. Hayath also has been nominated.

Kolar Dist: Bd.

Mr. V. Venkataswami Chetty.- He belongs to Banajiga Community. He has worked as Vice President and President of this District Board, and it was thought that his experience would be useful and of

value

value on the Board. The population of Banagiga Community in the Kolar District is 47417, No applications from Banagigas were received for nomination.

Mr. S. Ramappa.- He was the previous Vice President of this District Board. The Deputy Commissioner recommended strongly that he may be nominated and that his presence would be very useful.

Mandya Dist Bd Mr. M.C. Linge Gowda.- Mandya District Board was to be newly constituted from 1st June 1940. There were very few (only two) among the newly elected members who had served in the previous Mysore District Board. As this was a Board to be newly constituted, it was considered very essential to have some persons who had previous knowledge and experience of the affairs of the District Board, on it. As Mr. Linge Gowda had been in the Board for more than 10 years, it was thought desirable to nominate him to the Board. There were 13 Vokkaligars among the Elected members - no applications for nominations were received from any Vokkaligar candidates

Mysore Dist Bd. B.Channiah.- He is a Lingayet of Lalanahalli Krishnarajanagar Taluk. He is an influential man of the Taluk and is taking keen interest in the several matters relating to the uplift of the General Public and his presence on the Board was considered to be very useful.

14. Lingayets have been returned in that District.

Among Lingayets, Mr. Bale Siddalinga Setty had applied for nomination.

K.M.R.6.

Statement showing the distribution of the elected members communitywar.

	Mandya	Mysore.	Kolar.	Chitaldrug.
Total elected strength	16	21	23	19
Vokkaligars	14	4	9	2
Lingayets	-	14	2	11
Brahmins	1	1	3	1
Vysyas	-	-	2	1
Sadans	-	-	3	-
Gangamatha	1	-	-	-
Muslims	-	1	-	-
Kshatriyas	-	1	-	-
Other castes	-	-	4	4

	Total strength	Elected	Ex-Officio	Nominated	Women	Adikarnatakas	Mohammedans	Other Communities.
Bangalore	37	25	5	7	1	1	2	1 Lingayet 1 Vokkaliga 1 Nagar[illegible]
Mysore	31	21	5	5	1	1	1	1 Christian 1 Lingayet
Mandya	24	16	4	4	-	1	1	1 Vokkaliga 1 Viswakarma
Kolar	34	23	4	7	1	1	3	1 Brahmin 1 Banajiga
Hassan	27	18	4	5	-	1	1	2 Brahmin 1 Jain
Tumkur	31	21	4	6	1	1	2	1 Jain 1 Kurubar
Chitaldrug	28	19	4	5	1	-	2	1 Naik 1 Banaja
Kadur	22	15	3	4	1	1	2	Nil
Shimoga	25	17	4	4	1	-	1	1 Naik 1 Maharatta
Total..	259	175	37	47	7	7	15	18

District.	Total number of applications for nomination	Details.
Bangalore.	14	Muslims - 3, Adikarnatakas - Brahmins - 1, Vodder - 1, Vysya - 1, Vokkaligar - 1, Lambani - 1, Lingayet - 1, Other sects - 1
Mysore	6	Adikarnataka - 1 Muslim - 1, Lingayet - 1, [illegible] - 1.
Mandya.	8	Brahmin - 1, Viswakarma - 1, Muslim - 3, Adikarnataka - Other sects - 1
Kolar	8	Brahmin - 1, Muslim - 3, Vysya - 1, Other castes - Vodder - 1.
Tumkur.	3	Jain - 1, Gollar - 1, Banajar - 1.
Hassan.	4	Brahmins - 2, Vokkaligar - 2, Aryanayanaja Kshatriya - 1.
Shimoga.	2	Arasu - 1, Other sects - 1
Chitaldrug.	25	Naiyaka - 1, Muslims - 2, Vokkaligar - 1 Kshatroya - 1, Banajiga - 1, Voddar - 1, Banaja - 4, Reddy - 2, Jogan - 2, Brahmins - 2, Adikarnataka - 1 Mahratta - 1, Christian - 1, Polegar - 2
Kudur.	-	

REPLY

(To be written on this margin.)

OFFICE OF THE
SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL

NOTE

Dated 12th June ..... *19*40.

A note may be prepared immediately on the lines indicated in the Chief Secretary's note. I want the following information to be given in the form of a statement:-

1. Name of District.
2. Total number of seats in the Board.
3. Number of elected members.
4. Number of Ex-Officio members.
5. Number of nominated members.
6. Number of persons who stood for election but who were nominated on special grounds.
7. The several columns may be totalled up.
8. Remarks. - The circumstances in which the nominations of defeated candidates were made should be given in respect of each case.

The files relating to the constitution of these Boards may be put up.

The Government orders on the subject of nominations to District Boards issued from time to time may also be put up.

I shall be in Mysore at 9.30 A.M., on Friday the 14th instant. Law Secretary will see me at 10 A.M.

12-6-40

Urgent.
13/6/40